Sl. No.	Name of the District	Long Distance Public Telephones Opened During:		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
26.	Solapur	90	70	152
27.	Thane	20	46	119
28.	Wardha	1	40	57
29.	Yeotmal	13	14	87
	TOTAL:	422	945	2781

Delegation of Powers to Central Government Departments

2686. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various departments of the Central Government have powers under the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules to enter into contracts costing more than two lakhs U.S. dollars with international agencies for consultancy services in connection with the preparation of a project report for development of management information system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Department of Science and Technology or National Informatic Centre under Planning Commission have necessary expertise for rendering such consultancy services or for carrying out the necessary networking international level; and

(c) if so, the reasons for awarding such contracts to any outside foreign/ international agency resulting in loss of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Ministries/Departments do not have powers to enter into contracts with international agencies for consultancy services. However, they can do so with the previous consent of the Ministry of Finance.

(b) Department of Science and Technology have no expertise, at present, for rendering consultancy expertise services for carrying out net working at national and international level. However, NIC under the Planning Commission have such expertise.

(c) No contracts have been awarded by the Department of Science and Technology to foreign agencies for consultancy services for carrying out networking.

Duping Public by Delhi Branch of M/s. Favourite Small Investment Company

2687. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Favourite Small Investment Co., Calcutta was allowed to take deposits in the name of Small Savings Scheme from public and it collected a huge amount from public through their branch in Delhi during the year 1984;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Company has since wound up its Delhi office after duping the public; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps are being taken to refund the deposits of the innocent public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) M/s. Favourite Small Investment Limited, Calcutta is a residuary non-banking company, with one of its branches in Delhi, accepting deposits from the public. Separate information